

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

Administration

Virginia administers its environmental programs through independent state agencies, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, and their voluntary citizen boards, appointed by the Governor.

The independent agencies administer the daily operations of Virginia's environmental programs and have considerable authority over the issuance of permits, interpretation of regulations, fee-setting, and initiation of enforcement actions. The agencies also serve as the primary point of contact for regulated industries.

The Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for both the environmental permitting process and communications with business, government, and the general public. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission remains the primary contact for joint local, state, and federal applications for all wetlands and navigable waterways permitting requirements.

The City of Alexandria has promulgated local erosion and sediment control ordinances which establish soil conservation requirements for land distributing activities associated with new construction. Information concerning these requirements may be obtained from the City of Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, or from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Soil and Water Conservation, listed below.

Under the complex system of state and federal environmental programs and procedures, it is highly recommended that any business or industry which is new, modifying an existing facility, or modifying a process, seek early guidance from the appropriate regulatory agency before proceeding with the prospective activity.

Contact: *Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, (804) 762-4000, or Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, (703) 838-4966* for more detailed information and to obtain information on regulations and fees contained in the *Business and Industry Guide to Environmental Permits in Virginia*. See the appendix for the addresses of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services.